

USS Enterprise (CVN 65)

THE SHUTTLE

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Safety First

Big 'E' focuses on flight deck safety

Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Steffensen signals for the shuttle to retract following a successful no-load catapult test on the flight deck of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Bryan Blair

SAILORS OF THE DAY



Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Derrick Kane

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Derrick A. Kane is a native of Hooks, Texas. Kane enjoys kayaking, golfing and working on his car and he joined the Navy to protect his friends and family back home. Kane enjoys learning the different aspects of his job and is happiest when he is given a job that puts his mind to the test. He wants to finish his qualifications before deployment and make it back next year in time for his best friend's wedding.

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nathan Carpenter

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nathan Carpenter is from Kijabe, Kenya. His passion is video and admits he joined the Navy because he saw a recruiting video that he wanted an opportunity to improve. He dreams of one day directing a major motion picture. Carpenter enjoys spending time with his family, working on computers and producing video and special effects.



Danger Zone:

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Travis S. Alston

Flight deck safety a top concern for Enterprise Sailors

By MCSN Peter D. Melkus
USS Enterprise Public Affairs

USS ENTERPRISE, At sea – As the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group (ENTSG) continues its Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) Oct. 16, the safety of its Sailors is taking top priority.

Take a run-of-the-mill office setting and swap out computers for explosive weapons, desks and chairs for jets and helicopters and the water cooler for, well, an ocean. Then add working conditions that can include blistering heat, freezing cold, deafening noise and blinding light (or darkness).

Mix those ingredients together, and you've got the perfect recipe for what is, not surprisingly, one of the world's

most dangerous work environments – the flight deck of an aircraft carrier.

In a recent address to crewmembers, Capt. O. P. Honors, Enterprise commanding officer, discussed his concern with flight deck safety and shipboard safety in general.

Honors urged Sailors to slow down and be more aware of their surroundings, especially in limited visibility conditions.

"Nothing we're doing out here is worth losing a person or aircraft due to expediency," Honors said.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW/SW) Mark Torres, V-1 assistant leading petty officer, said that he is concerned that Sailors who are used to this environment are prone to become complacent or take things for granted.

"Sailors need to realize that each day is a brand new day where anything can happen, and if you're feeling too comfortable out there, something bad is bound to happen," said Torres.

Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Melissa A. Brooks, a three-year member of the Integrated Weapons Team assigned to the "Checkmates" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 211, emphasizes that complacency and comfort can be a dangerous flight deck combination.

"No one should be stagnant on a flight deck," Brooks said. "You have to be vigilant – keep looking around and encourage other people to keep their head on a swivel out there."

Enterprise leaders are working to keep crew members safe by increasing the number of training sessions and safety briefs flight deck personnel receive prior to conducting flight operations, including a mandatory viewing of the Naval Safety Center's flight deck safety video.

The ship's closed-circuit television system is playing the video on a regular basis, which familiarizes Sailors with flight deck dangers and proper procedures to follow.

"We are aggressively combating the root cause of flight deck injuries and have taken several measures to educate and train all of our Sailors," said Cmdr. Daniel A. Haight Jr., Enterprise safety officer. "My advice to everyone, whether they are on the flight deck or not, is to slow down, focus on the task at hand, follow the proper procedures and don't hesitate to take action when you find yourself in an unsafe condition. Ask yourself 'What can reach out and hurt me today?' and apply the proper controls and mitigation procedures to ensure that it does not happen."

While the duties performed aboard an aircraft carrier remain some of the most challenging presented in any working environment, Sailors can rest assured knowing that safer equipment and training methods are constantly being developed and updated in order to successfully complete missions while keeping the safety of the crew the ship's top priority. 📷

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News & Notes

Mandatory Pre-Deployment Briefs:

**Married Sailors/
Family Brief**
1st & 29th of
November
Vista Point
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Single Sailors Brief
8th and 10th of
November
C-9 Auditorium
4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Naval Air Crewman 3rd Class Jacob A. Steinmetz guides the pilot of an HH-60H Seahawk assigned to the "Dragonslayers" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 11 toward cargo onboard the Military Sealift Command fast combat supply ship USNS Arctic (T-AOE 8) during a underway replenishment with the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65).



U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication 3rd Class Brooks B. Patton

"Dragonslayer"

ATTENTION ENTERPRISE FEMALE SAILORS E-1 - E-6!



The Enterprise Women's Focus Group will be conducting a "Facts & Fiction" about deployment forum ... This forum is for YOU, the women of ENTERPRISE! Forum will be held OCT. 18th, 20th and 22nd in the foc'sle.

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